

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a former US Naval Officer, served in Viet Nam and am a small business owner in Portland, Oregon.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

I strongly support our freedom of the press and I am appaled at the power of the few to influence the many, especially when using so-called public airwaves. Just as we do not have the right to falsely yell "fire" in a public building, we must show balance and fairness in using public forums to influence.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Ron Ennis, Ph.D.
President
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